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INVINCIBLE GUARDIANS OF WORLD FREEDOM!
SHOGUN WARRIORS
™
DEMONS ON THE MOON!

From an ancient sanctuary hidden in the mountains of Japan come Raydeen, Combatra and Dangard Ace— giant robots operated by three courageous humans, Richard Carson, Genji Odashu, and Ilongo Savage — ready to fight the forces of evil wherever they arise!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: SHOGUN WARRIORS™

THE DEMONICUS SCHEME!

ON THE SURFACE OF THE MOON: A LIFT-CRAFT DESCENDS TOWARD A HELPLESS SHOGUN WARRIOR AND HIS BIZARRE LILLIPUTIAN CAPTORS...
WH-WHERE AM I...? WHAT... HAPPENED...?

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SHOGUN WARRIORS™ Vol. 1, No. 13, February, 1980 Issue. Published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Galton, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 575 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022. Published monthly. Combatra copyright © 1979 Hiromi Pro/Toei. All rights reserved. Dangard Ace copyright © 1979 Reiji Matsumoto/Toei Animation. All rights reserved. Raydeen copyright © 1979 Tohokushinsha. All rights reserved. All other material copyright © 1979 Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. Price 40¢ per copy in the U.S. and Canada. Subscription rate $5.00 for 12 issues. Canada, $6.00. Foreign, $7.00. SHOGUN™ and SHOGUN WARRIORS™ ARE TRADEMARKS OF MATTEL, INC. and are used with permission. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead persons or institutions is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the U.S.A. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition.

INSIDE THE PROSTRATE FORM OF DANGARD ACE, PILOT ICONGO SAVAGE SLOWLY REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS...
WAIT A MINUTE-- NOW I REMEMBER...
"A HUGE METEOR WAS ABOUT TO COLLIDE WITH THE EARTH AND CAUSE MASS DESTRUCTION...
"THE FOLLOWERS OF THE LIGHT DETECTED ITS APPROACH AND SUMMONED THE OPERATORS OF ALL THREE SHOGUN WARRIORS...
"WE LEFT EARTH AT ONCE, STREAKING INTO OUTER SPACE IN AN ATTEMPT TO HEAD OFF THE METEOR'S APPROACH.
"AND WE SUCCEEDED--
"-- SMASHING THE THING INTO HARMLESS RUBBLE THAT WOULD EITHER BYPASS THE EARTH OR BURN UP IN THE ATMOSPHERE.
"BUT THEN WE DISCOVERED A STRANGE SPACE STATION ON THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON...
"... AND WHEN WE APPROACHED FOR INVESTIGATION--
"-- IT BLASTED US WITH INCREDIBLE FORCE...
"... SLAMMING DANGARD ACE ONTO THE SURFACE OF THE MOON. I MUST HAVE LOST CONSCIOUSNESS ON IMPACT..."
NOW... THE CONTROLS CHECK OUT PERFECTLY-- BUT MY VIEWSCREENS AREN'T WORKING AND DANGARD ACE WON'T RESPOND... WON'T MOVE!

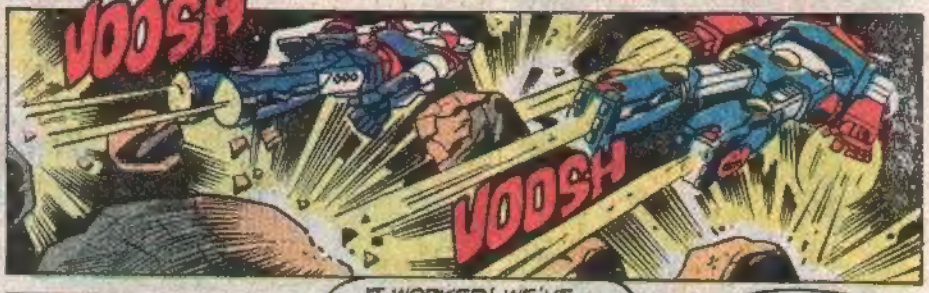
OUTSIDE, THE LIFT-CRAFT SILENTLY DROPS ITS MAGNETIC GRAPPLING HOOKS...
BUT WHY NOT? WHAT'S HOLDING ME DOWN?
"AND WHERE ARE THE OTHER TWO GHOGUNS, RAYDEEN AND COMBATRA--?"
I'M BEGINNING TO WISH WE HADN'T HURLED PAST THE MOON, RICHARD.
I'M HIP, GENJI-- WE MIGHT'VE BEEN BETTER OFF CRASHING WITH DANGARD ACE.
THEN YOU'VE REACHED THE SAME GLOOMY CONCLUSION I HAVE, RICHARD?
'FRAID SO, GENJI.
THERE'S NO FRICTION IN THIS VACUUM TO SLOW US DOWN-- AND WE'RE GOING TOO FAST TO STOP OURSELVES. WE MAY JUST FALL THROUGH THE STARS FOREVER.
INSIDE GHOGUN SANCTUARY, HIDDEN IN A REMOTE MOUNTAIN RANGE ON EARTH...
COMBATRA AND RAYDEEN-- CAN YOU HEAR US!
...THE FOLLOWERS OF THE LIGHT GRIMLY WATCH TWO OF THEIR AWESOME CHARGES...
WE'VE LOST SIGHT OF DANGARD ACE AND ILONGO SAVAGE ON THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON. HE MAY BE INJURED--YOU MUST GO TO HIS AID!
OUTER SE... SATELITE 618
WE'VE BEEN TRYING-- BUT WE CAN'T!
WE'RE GOING TOO FAST-- OUR RETRO ROCKETS JUST AREN'T STRONG ENOUGH TO HALT US.
HMMM... THEN THEIR ONLY CHANCE IS--
WE'RE IN LUCK DR. TAMBURA-- THEY'LL BE ENTERING AN ASTEROID FIELD WITHIN ONE MINUTE.
EXCELLENT, CHARN!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

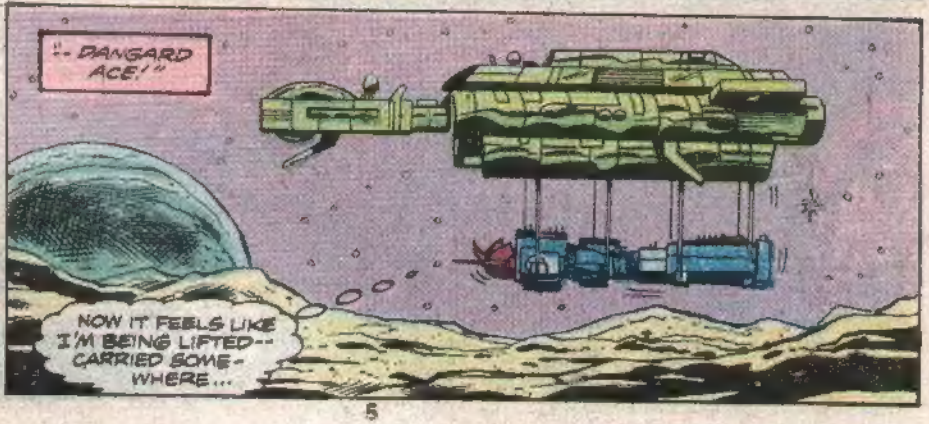
LISTEN TO ME, RICHARD CARSON AND GENJI ODASHU -- SAVE RAYDEEN'S AND COMBATRA'S ENERGY FOR THE NEXT FULL MINUTE.
AND WHEN YOU ENTER THE FIELD, BLAST DIRECTLY AT THE LARGEST ASTEROIDS. THE REACTION INERTIA WILL BOTH HALT YOU AND PROVIDE REVERSE THRUST.

YOU'RE RIGHT, DOC -- WE CAN SEE THE FIELD NOW, AND WE'RE APPROACHING IT FAST!

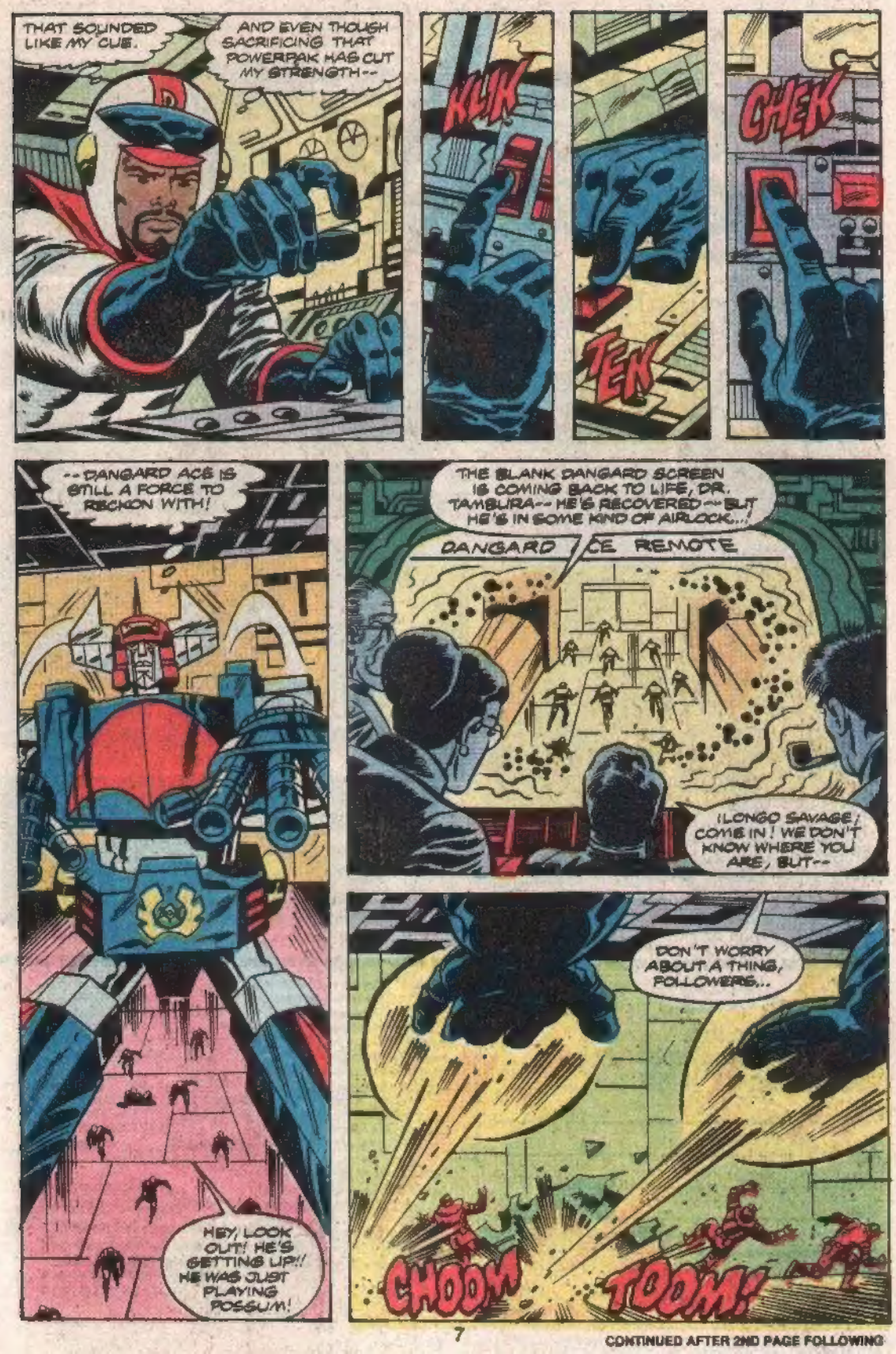
HOLD STEADY.. STEADY.. NOW!


VOOSH
VOOSH

IT WORKED! WE'VE REVERSED OUR COURSE!
OKAY, GENJI, NOW BACK TO FIND --


-- DANGARD ACE!"
NOW IT FEELS LIKE I'M BEING LIFTED -- CARRIED SOME-WHERE...

THEY'VE GOT SOME KIND OF MAGNETIC FORCE-GRIP ON DANGARD ACE-- STILL CAN'T BUDGE...
THEY MUST BE TAKING ME INSIDE THAT HUGE SPACE STATION.
WHICH MEANS I'VE GOT TO PLAY DEAD--MORE THAN DEAD. I'VE GOT TO SACRIFICE A POWERPAK...
KLIK!
BOOM!
LOOK OUT! WHAT HAPPENED?
THE ROBOT'S GOING LIMP IN THE SLING! HIS STRUGGLES MUST'VE CAUSED AN OVERLOAD-- PUT HIM OUT OF COMMISSION.
WELL, THAT SOLVES THE PROBLEM OF HOW WE CAN APPROACH THE SHOGUN TO REMOVE ITS HUMAN OPERATOR.
YEAH, THEN WE CAN REPAIR THE ROBOT AND IT'LL BE IN OUR CONTROL--JUST LIKE DEMONICUS PLANNED.
HE'S ON THE BAY FLOOR--- RELEASE THE SLING! HE'S HELPLESS NOW!


THAT SOUNDED LIKE MY CUE.
AND EVEN THOUGH SACRIFICING THAT POWERPAK HAS CUT MY STRENGTH--
KLIK
TEK
CHEK
--DANGARD ACE IS STILL A FORCE TO RECKON WITH!
HEY, LOOK OUT! HE'S GETTING UP!! HE WAS JUST PLAYING POSSUM!
THE BLANK DANGARD SCREEN IS COMING BACK TO LIFE, DR. TAMBURA-- HE'S RECOVERED -- BUT HE'S IN SOME KIND OF AIRLOCK...!
DANGARD
CE REMOTE
!LONGO SAVAGE! COME IN! WE DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU ARE, BUT--
DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING, FOLLOWERS...
CHOOM
TOOM!

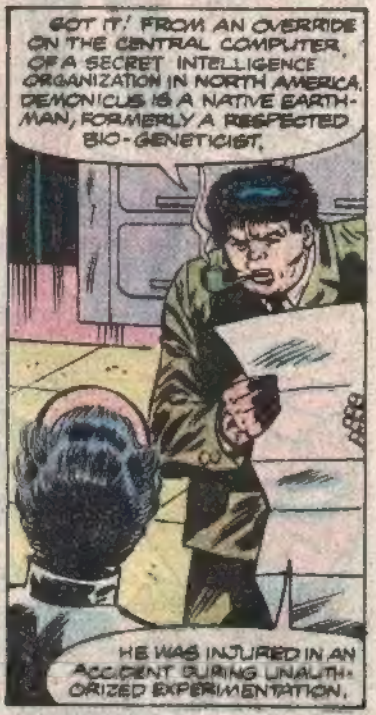
CONTINUED AFTER 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

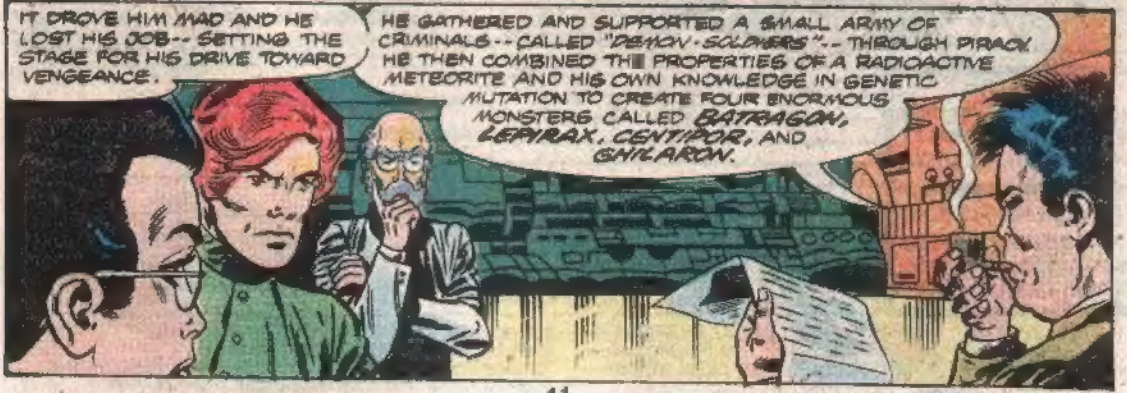
EVERYTHING IS JUST... FINE!
ZAT ZAT ZAT
BUH BUH BOOM
WAIT A MINUTE-- ALL THE ASTRO-NAUT-SOLDIERS ARE ON THE RUN, BUT... BUT THE WALL IN FRONT OF ME...
IT'S STARTING TO GLOW--! IT... IT'S A HUGE SCREEN!
AND ON THAT SCREEN APPEARS A FIGURE OF CHILLING MENACE...
SO YOU'RE FREE, DANSARD ACE... BUT NO MATTER.
AFTER ALL, I EXPECTED MORE OF A STRUGGLE-- MUCH MORE, INDEED, YOU WERE BEGINNING TO DIS-APPOINT ME, SHOGUN WARRIOR.
WHO ARE YOU--?
I--? WHY, I AM DR. DEMONICUS, OF COURSE-- YOUR NEW MASTER!

CHARN, SEARCH THE COMPUTERS FOR ALL AVAILABLE DATA ON THIS MADMAN WHO CALLS HIMSELF "DR. DEMONICUS."
I'VE ALREADY BEGUN, DR. TAMBURA.

YOU'RE STILL TRAPPED IN HERE, YOU SEE--IN MY PRIVATE SPACE STATION--AND YOUR DEFEAT IS ALMOST CERTAIN...
ACE REMOTE
HURRY, CHARN! WE DON'T KNOW *WHAT* HE'S PLANNING--OR WHAT HE MIGHT BE CAPABLE OF!

FOR, UNLESS YOU FIND ME--AND *STOP* ME--WITHIN TWO HOURS, EARTH WILL FALL--CRUSHED UNDER MY HEEL!
AND TO FIND ME, YOU MUST FIRST MAKE YOUR WAY THROUGH THIS SPACE STATION...


GOT IT! FROM AN OVERRIDE ON THE CENTRAL COMPUTER OF A SECRET INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION IN NORTH AMERICA, DEMONICUS IS A NATIVE EARTHMAN, FORMERLY A RESPECTED BIO-GENETICIST.
HE WAS INJURED IN AN ACCIDENT DURING UNAUTHORIZED EXPERIMENTATION.


IT DROVE HIM MAD AND HE LOST HIS JOB--SETTING THE STAGE FOR HIS DRIVE TOWARD VENGEANCE.
HE GATHERED AND SUPPORTED A SMALL ARMY OF CRIMINALS--CALLED "DEMON-SOLDIERS"--THROUGH PIRACY. HE THEN COMBINED THE PROPERTIES OF A RADIOACTIVE METEORITE AND HIS OWN KNOWLEDGE IN GENETIC MUTATION TO CREATE FOUR ENORMOUS MONSTERS CALLED *BATRAGON, LEPIRAX, CENTIPOR,* AND *GHILARON.*

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WHILE ON THE MOON...
WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?
I WANT THE EARTH! I WANT VENGEANCE ON THE FOOLS WHO TRIED TO DESTROY MY WORK--AND TO DESTROY ME!
I WANT TO CONQUER ALL OF EARTH!!
BUT WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME-- WITH THE SHOGUN WARRIORS?
THE SHOGUN WARRIORS WILL BE ADDED TO MY OWN CREATIONS IN THE FINAL ASSAULT ON EARTH--
--AFTER THE PLANET HAS BEEN WEAKENED BY COSMIC CATACLYSM!
THE MONSTERS WERE SLAIN-- BY A RATHER EXTRAORDINARY AGENT AND DEMONICUS WAS CAPTURED.
OBVIOUSLY, HE HAS NOW ESCAPED.
THEN HE COULD INDEED BE LINKED TO THE MYSTERY OF OUR THREE RECENT MONSTER ATTACKS.
YES, IF DEMONICUS' GENETIC MUTATION EXPERIMENTS CREATED LEPIRAX, CHILARON, AND CENTIPOR, THEN HE COULD HAVE ALSO CREATED CERBERUS, STARCHILD, AND THE HAND OF FIVE.
BUT EVEN WITH AN ARMY OF "DEMON-SOLDIERS," HOW DID HE BUILD AN ENTIRE SPACE STATION?
THAT STILL REMAINS A MYSTERY, ALTHOUGH THE REASON FOR THE STATION IS CLEAR...
"HE NEEDS COSMIC RADIATION TO PERFORM HIS GENETIC MUTATIONS...
"...AND WHERE BETTER TO OBTAIN IT THAN OUT IN THE COSMOS--
"--IN HIS OWN SPACE STATION BEYOND THE MOON?"

ONE THING IS CERTAIN. IF [illegible] CONTINUES THE METEOR MENACE, HE MUST BE STOPPED BEFORE HE TRIES SOMETHING WORSE.
THE OTHER TWO SHOGUNS ARE NOW APPROACHING THE SPACE STATION DR TAMBURA.
SANCTUARY CALLING COMBATRA AND RAYDEEN: WHATEVER YOU DO, AVOID ANOTHER BLAST FROM THAT SPACE STATION. WE DON'T WANT A REPEAT OF OUR RECENT MISADVENTURE
WE'LL DO OUR BEST, CHARN, BUT I DON'T THINK WE'RE IN A POSITION TO PROMISE ANYTHING.
AND, IN THE SPACE STATION BAY..
WHAT KIND OF "[illegible]C CATACLYSM"?
ANOTHER METEOR, OF COURSE. THE FIRST ONE WAS MERELY MY INVITATION--TO ATTRACT YOU HERE. AND ONCE YOU'RE HELPLESS--ONCE THE SHOGUN WARRIORS ARE IN MY CONTROL--
--THE REAL METEOR ATTACK WILL DESTROY EARTH'S DEFENSES... AND DISRUPT MUCH OF EARTH.
THEN, ARMED WITH BOTH MY CREATIONS AND THE SHOGUN WARRIORS, I SHALL GO DOWN TO CONQUER THE PLANET BEFORE--
THE OTHER TWO ARE APPROACHING! SHOULD WE BLAST 'EM AGAIN?
NOT NOW, YOU FOOL! CAN'T YOU SEE THE TRANSMITTER IS OPEN?!
THE SCREEN QUICKLY GOES BLANK.
DID YOU HEAR THAT, SANCTUARY?
YES, ALONSO SAVAGE, AND IT IS UP TO YOU TO PREVENT RAYDEEN AND COMBATRA FROM BEING BLASTED AGAIN...

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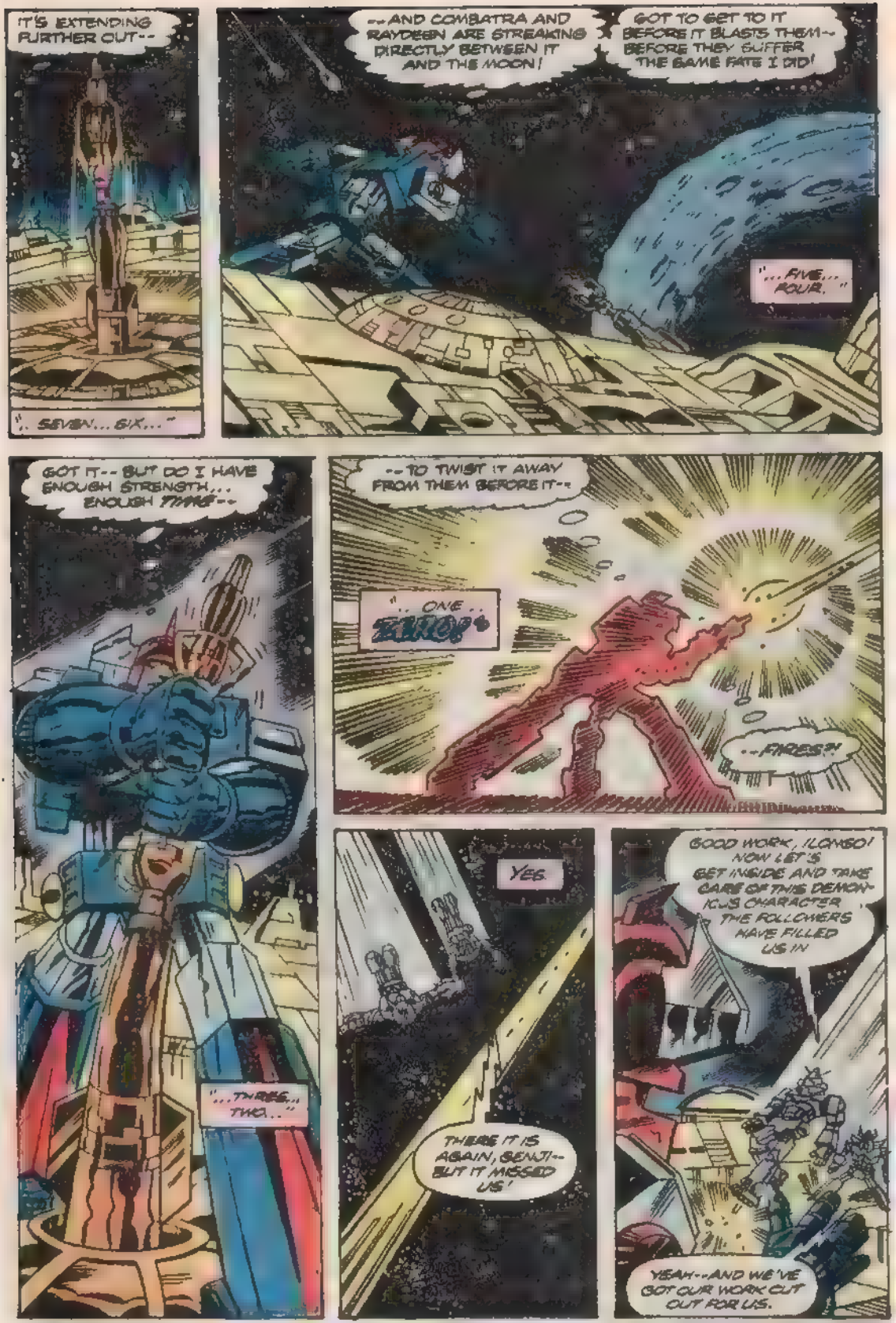
IS THERE SOME WAY, FROM YOUR VANTAGE POSITION INSIDE THE STATION, THAT YOU MIGHT SABOTAGE THEIR WEAPONRY?
I DON'T KNOW-- PROBABLY NOT FROM INSIDE. BUT MAYBE FROM DIRECTLY OUTSIDE...
TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION-- NOW THAT THE DAMAGE HAS BEEN DONE, YOU FOOL-- YES, PREPARE THE WEAPON. BUT THIS TIME I WANT YOU TO CALCULATE THE BLAST PRECISELY...
WE MUST SLAM BOTH OF THEM ONTO THE MOON FOR PICKUP WHILE THEY'RE HELPLESS.
RIGHT, SIR.
MOMENTS LATER, THE BIZARRE WEAPON NOZZLE EXTRUDES FROM THE STATION'S OUTER HULL...
...WHILE, INSIDE THE BAY...
SHURAK!
DAMBARD ACE EMERGES FOR ACTION.
THERE'S THE WEAPON THAT BLASTED US!
THE COUNTDOWN BEGINS "TEN, NINE...EIGHT..."


IT'S EXTENDING FURTHER OUT--
"...SEVEN...SIX..."
--AND COMBATRA AND RAYDEEN ARE STREAKING DIRECTLY BETWEEN IT AND THE MOON!
GOT TO GET TO IT BEFORE IT BLASTS THEM-- BEFORE THEY SUFFER THE SAME FATE I DID!
"...FIVE... FOUR."
GOT IT-- BUT DO I HAVE ENOUGH STRENGTH... ENOUGH TIME--
"...THREE... TWO..."
--TO TWIST IT AWAY FROM THEM BEFORE IT--
"...ONE..."
ZAP!
--FIRES?!
YES.
THERE IT IS AGAIN, BENJI-- BUT IT MISSED US!
GOOD WORK, ILONSO! NOW LET'S GET INSIDE AND TAKE CARE OF THIS DEMONIC CHARACTER... THE FOLLOWERS HAVE FILLED US IN
YEAH--AND WE'VE GOT OUR WORK CUT OUT FOR US.

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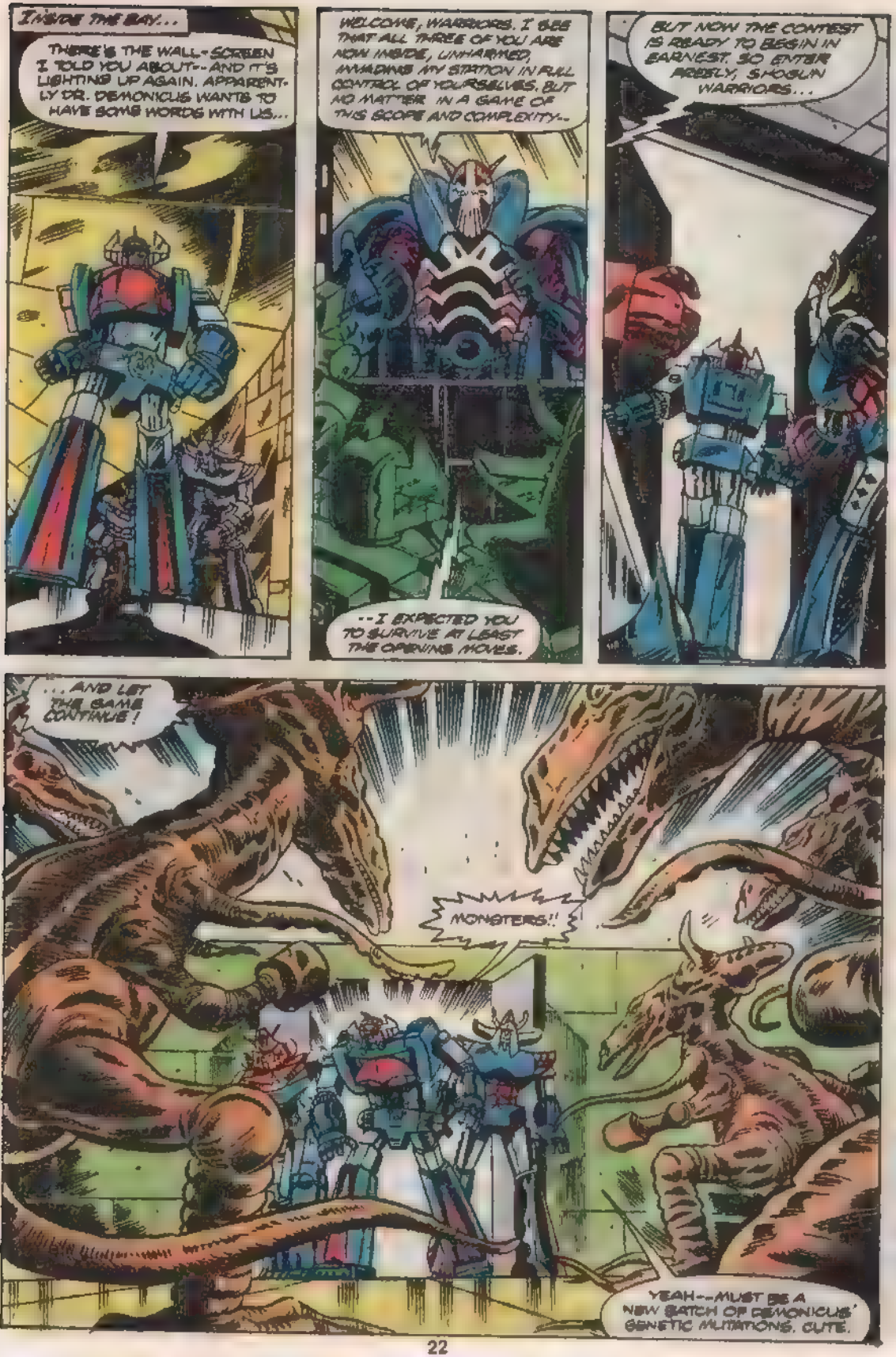
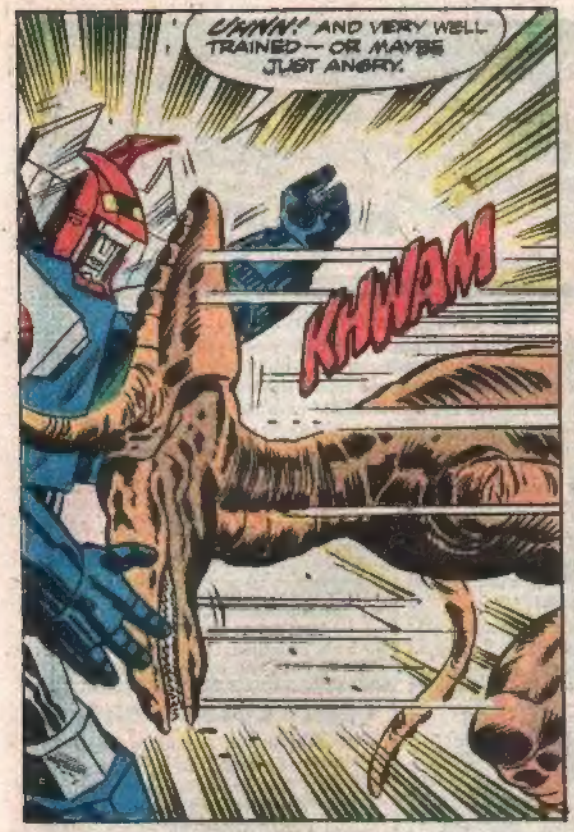

INSIDE THE BAY...
THERE'S THE WALL-SCREEN I TOLD YOU ABOUT--AND IT'S LIGHTING UP AGAIN. APPARENTLY DR. DEMONICUS WANTS TO HAVE SOME WORDS WITH US...
WELCOME, WARRIORS. I SEE THAT ALL THREE OF YOU ARE NOW INSIDE, UNHARMED, INVADING MY STATION IN FULL CONTROL OF YOURSELVES. BUT NO MATTER IN A GAME OF THIS SCOPE AND COMPLEXITY--
--I EXPECTED YOU TO SURVIVE AT LEAST THE OPENING MOVES.
BUT NOW THE CONTEST IS READY TO BEGIN IN EARNEST. SO ENTER FREELY, SHOGUN WARRIORS...
...AND LET THE GAME CONTINUE!
MONSTERS!!
YEAH--MUST BE A NEW BATCH OF DEMONICUS' GENETIC MUTATIONS. CUTE.



YEAH? WELL, I GOT NEWS FOR 'EM -- I'M ANGRY TOO!
IN FACT, I'M DOWNRIGHT MAD!!
BUM CHOOM
COMING TO DAHSARD ACE'S AID, RAYDEEN FIRES ONE OF HIS DEVASTATING MISSILE-ARROWS...

AND NOW IT IS COMBATRA'S TURN TO INTERVENE ON BEHALF OF HER FELLOW WARRIOR...
SMREEEE
PHSHHH
THE PULSOR RAY LAYS THE MONSTER LOW.

CONTINUED AFTER 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

AND SO THE BATTLE GOES. FACING THE UNKNOWN, ALL THREE GHOSTLINS ARE CERTAIN OF ONE THING: ALL THEIR ENDLESS HOURS OF TRAINING WILL NOT GO TO WASTE...
...FOR IT IS UNSELFISH PRECISELY-TIMED TEAMWORK THAT WILL WIN THE DAY.
WHO
THANKS, SAVAGE.
IT CAUGHT ME OFF-GUARD.
YOU ALL RIGHT, SAVAGE? NEED SOME HELP?
NO THANKS, CARSON--DANGARD AND I ARE DOING JUST FINE!
WHUMP!
THOSE WERE THE LAST TWO. MAYBE DEMONICUS' MONSTERS AREN'T SO HOT AFTER ALL.
AND MAYBE WE'VE ONLY PASSED THE FIRST TEST--A SIMPLE ONE.

WELL, SINCE WE'VE STILL GOT TO FIND AND STOP DEMONICUS IN LESS THAN TWO HOURS, THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT. LET'S GO.
MAYBE DOWN THIS CORRIDOR?
YES, LET'S TRY IT AND SEE.
THEY'RE GETTING CLOSE TO THE MAIN PORTAL, DR. DEMONICUS. SHOULDN'T YOU ACTIVATE THE FORCEFIELD?
YES...
...ALTHOUGH I DOUBT IT WILL STOP THEM.
TEK-
KIZZAKT
FORCEFIELD-- RIPPLING OUT FROM THE WALLS AND CEILING!
GRIT YOUR TEETH AND JUST WADE THROUGH -- OUR INSULATOR SHIELDS SHOULD PROTECT US!
BRACE YOURSELVES-- WE'RE COMING TO A TURN.
MADE IT!
HMM. STURDY LOOKING DOOR, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
YEAH--LET'S OPEN IT.
THEY'RE BREACHING THE PORTAL TO THE MAIN PEN. THE GAME NOW GOES TO ITS FINAL MOVES...
IT'S TAKING A LOT OF POWER TO FORCE IT OPEN. CAN YOU SEE WHAT'S INSIDE?
NO--NOT YET...
I CAN...
...AND I DON'T LIKE WHAT I SEE.

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WELCOME TO THE FINAL GAMBIT.
I TRUST YOU ALREADY KNOW MY THREE CROWNING CREATIONS? BUT WHAT YOU DO *NOT* KNOW IS THAT A CERTAIN DEVICE HAS ALREADY BEEN ACTIVATED, PULLING A HUGE METEOR INTO A LINE OF ELECTRO-MAGNETIC FORCE--DIRECTED STRAIGHT AT EARTH!
SO THE GAME IS NOW REDUCED TO ITS SIMPLEST FORM: DEFEAT MY CREATIONS AND DEACTIVATE THE DEVICE WITHIN THE HOUR -- OR EARTH SHALL BE CRUSHED!
OUR HUNCH WAS RIGHT-- DEMONICUS *WAS* BEHIND THE THREE MONSTER ATTACKS ON EARTH...
YES, AND THEY'RE ALIVE AND WELL...
STARCHILD... THE *HAND OF FIVE*... AND *CERBERUS*.
CREATURES WHO HAD ALL BUT BEATEN US WHEN WE FOUGHT THEM!

NEXT ISSUE: THE EPIC CONCLUSION **SHOULD HEROES FAIL...**